

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 currently remain in the application. Claims 2 and 4-17 have been canceled and claims 1 and 3 are herein amended.

Claims 1, 4 and 7-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Bergtsson, and claims 3, 9 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Bergtsson in view of Hekai. In part in view of the cited references and the reasons for rejection by the Examiner, the claims section has been amended as described above, by incorporating the limitations of claims 4, 7, 9 and 12 into independent claim 1 and changing the dependency of claim 3 from claim 12 to amended claim 1.

This narrowed limitation is supported by the specification as originally filed and this amendment is in order to make it even clearer that nitrate nitrogen can be removed from a vegetable juice even more efficiently under this narrowly limited condition.

In summary, it is believed that it was not obvious even to persons skilled in the art and it would have taken an unreasonably demanding effort to discover to such narrowly defined conditions for efficiently removing nitrate nitrogen from a vegetable juice and hence that the application should be deemed allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



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September 17, 2007
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